

François Gouraud, "Invitation to exhibition in Boston," 4 March 1840

(keywords: François Gouraud, François Fauvel-Gouraud, Francois Gouraud, Francis Fauvel-Gouraud, Lemuel Shaw, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Daniel Treadwell, Edward Everett, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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Manuscript letter:

Invitation by François Gouraud dated 4 March 1840.

(Original line breaks preserved.)

Dear Sir

You have perhaps already been informed, through the public press, of my arrival in Boston, and of the object of my visit

Having brought with me a choice collection of the most beautiful Specimens of my Daguerreotype drawings, I have thought it my duty, before exhibiting them to the public, to give some of the most eminent men and distinguished artists of this city, the first views of perhaps the most interesting object that has ever been offered to the examination of a man of taste, — and therefore if agreeable to you, I shall be happy to have the honor of receiving you, with any member of your family and the friends you may please to invite, on Friday, the 6th instant, between the hours of Eleven and Two, at Tremont House, in the Ladies' Drawing room.

Yours respectfully

Francois Gouraud, D. E. S.

(Pupil of Daguerre)

Boston March 4 1840

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Four extant copies of this invitation are known to this editor: invitation received by Lemuel Shaw (Fine Arts Library of the Harvard College Library); Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Houghton Library, Harvard); Daniel Treadwell (collection Mathew R. Isenburg); Edward Everett (Massachusetts Historical Society).

This invitation was mostly mechanically produced. Two of the extant copies have hand-written corrections to the date of the exhibition, writing over a date of "Saturday the 5th." The numeral "4" of the March "4" 1840 date is written by hand (and is omitted in the Longfellow copy.) The initials of Gouraud's name are printed, but the remainder of his first and last name, and "D. E. S." are hand-written. Lastly, the parenthesis around "Pupil of Daguerre" are handwritten. An image of the Edward Everett copy is provided in Chris

Steele and Ronald Polito, *A Directory of Massachusetts Photographers: 1839–1900* (Camden: Picton Press, 1993): 60b.

Gouraud issued a similar invitation when in New York (prior to his arrival in Boston.)¹

Further information regarding Gouraud is found in Ron Polito, “The Emergence of Photography in Boston: 1840–1841” *The Journal: New England Journal of Photographic History* No. 164 (Spring 2005): 16–32. Polito’s article is also reprinted in *Daguerreian Annual 2006* (Pittsburgh: The Daguerreian Society, 2007): 154–73.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8390001_GOURAUD_NY_INVITE_1839-11-29.pdf

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